



A Community #ForAllAges

June 2019

## Embracing the Age-Friendly Movement Locally

Age-Friendly Sarasota is delighted to introduce you to Sue Firestone, Sarasota County's Aging System Policy Coordinator. This new role provided by the County will help facilitate age-friendly policy change for our community's older adults. If we were on a Zoom video call, this is what she'd say...

"What an exciting time to be working in the field of aging. For me, the excitement and passion have encompassed a lifetime. I come from a small, close-knit family and grew up with amazing grandparents who I adored. I guess that's where my love and appreciation of older people began. I have always enjoyed hearing their stories, words of wisdom, and life's lessons.

I have worked and volunteered with older adults for more than 35 years, most recently at the [Friendship Centers](#), where I spent 20 years working in program areas across multiple counties.

As the new Aging System Policy Coordinator, I have the privilege to work on behalf of Sarasota County's older adults. As Sarasota County accepts oversight of the [Age-Friendly Sarasota: A Community for All Ages](#) initiative, I look forward to working with [The Patterson Foundation](#), [Sarasota County](#) staff, the [Seniors Advisory Council](#), and the many businesses, nonprofits, and community individuals on continuing the extraordinary work. Though there have been numerous accomplishments, there is more work to do.

This movement is about community coming together to make a difference. Each of us have a part to play; there is no effort too small. At this moment, there is unprecedented support for the age-friendly movement on the national, state, and local level. Let's work together to keep the momentum going." -- Sue Firestone

We welcome Sue, and look forward to a heightened partnership throughout the county as we each embrace the age-friendly movement.



## I scream, you scream, we all scream for...the Library?

The ice cream truck used to drive around neighborhoods to keep folks cool during the summer months, but when's the last time you've seen an ice cream truck? While there won't be any ice cream, Sarasota County Libraries are stepping in with a variety of cool activities so people of all ages can chill in a learning environment.

With ten libraries in Sarasota, there are plenty of activities to choose from every day of the week. [Tailor a search specific to your needs, including the closest libraries and best times.](#)

# FIND YOURSELF AT THE LIBRARY

Check out our editor's top ten pics [#ForAllAges](#):

[VIRTUAL REALITY: SPACE ADVENTURES](#)

[DISCOVERY DOME PLANETARIUM](#)

[STAR WARS ESCAPE ROOM](#)

[SPANISH CONVERSATION LEARNING GROUP](#)

[INTRODUCTION TO 3D PRINTING AND DESIGN](#)

[CHESS CLUB](#)

[GENEALOGY RESEARCH](#)

[TECHNOLOGY HELP WITH LIBRARY LIFESAVERS](#)

[BLUES IN THE LIBRARY](#)

[OPEN LAB IN THE CREATION STATION](#)

## Advocating for Our Older Adults

By [Deborah Gauvreau](#)



presented to a packed house at the [Friendship Centers](#).

Attendees were eager to hear Ms. Duggar's comments about important aging topics, including the Older American's Act, prescription drugs, volunteerism, home health workers, home-delivered meals, Medicare and Medicaid changes, social isolation, and the 2019 legislative session where there are still significant challenges for Florida's population of older adults due to an ineffective federal funding allocation in a growing population.



[\[total time: 3:25\]](#)

FCOA's website recaps the 2019 Legislative Session: A very long and challenging 2019 Legislative budget process has finally come to an end with some hard-fought victories -- namely ensuring the continuation of base funding for Florida's Aging Network Flagship Programs, including Community Care for the Elderly (CCE), Home Care for the Elderly (HCE), Alzheimer's Respite Care (ADI), and Local Service Programs (LSP). With a major focus on funding hurricane recovery expenses in the Florida Panhandle due to last year's Hurricane Michael taking top priority for appropriations, the FCOA Advocacy Initiative still managed to see increases, albeit modest increases, to the Community Care for the Elderly Program and the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program. Additionally, several new local funding projects supporting Florida's seniors were approved.

Ms. Duggar shared some good news too. Falls have decreased, the management of diabetes and hospice care are both good in the state, and nationally, the immunization rates have improved for flu, pneumonia, and shingles.

Catch a glimpse of Margaret Lynn Duggar presenting viewpoints regarding employer considerations when hiring older workers. The clip also includes samples of Florida businesses that are engaging older citizens and why aging issues are a concern for all Floridians.

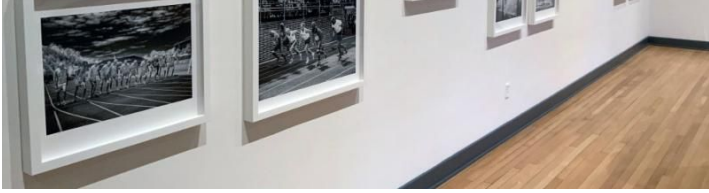
You are encouraged to explore and share the robust section of [resources](#) on the FCOA [website](#), including an Elder Helpline, the Florida Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, Long-Distance Caregiver Safety Tips, Medicare resources, and dozens of other aging resources.

[continue scrolling](#)

**LOCAL**

**MORE LOCAL**





## **Indomitable Spirit**

"I appreciated Mr. Burnett's exhibition, not because of my interest in sports but because of my interest in living. Age is just a number, and we each have the ability to be lifelong learners and adventurers. After I experienced the work, I left inspired, feeling like we truly do have nine lives." --

[Stacy Sternberg](#)

[David Burnett](#), a Hermitage Artist Retreat [Greenfield Prize](#) winner, will be exhibiting his work entitled "Fourth Quarter: Senior Athletes and Their Indomitable Spirit," at the Ringling Museum until July 21, 2019 [Other work can be viewed year round at [Patriot Plaza](#)].



*If Sarasota were a person, what three words would you use to describe him/her?*

[Sarasota in Motion](#), the city's first citywide transportation master plan, will develop a clear vision for how people will move around and through our community. Your vision and input will help identify priority projects, programs, and policies that shape the City of Sarasota.

### **Your Voice Matters**

This is your plan, and your input is critical. Please take a few minutes to take the short survey (and share it) to ensure we are hearing from a diversity of voices that represent our entire community. Your responses will be used to develop the vision, inventory, and priorities in Phase One of this project. "We can't wait to hear your ideas!"

[Take the 5-minute survey](#)

To share news or information, contact the editor at [ssternberg@thepattersonfoundation.org](mailto:ssternberg@thepattersonfoundation.org).